



Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee

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June 16, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Pullman City Hall, East End (Large) Conference Room

Attendance

X	UI: Michael Holthaus, Water Systems Manager	X	WSU: Mike Leonas (Chair), Director, Capital Planning & Dev.
X	UI: Joe Kline, Director, Utilities and Engineering	X	WSU: Steve Potratz, Plant Engineer – Facilities Operations
X	Moscow: Tom Scallorn (Vice-Chair), Water Dept Superintendent	X	Pullman: Mark Workman, Director of Public Works
	Moscow: Walter Steed, City Council Member		Pullman: Art Garro, Maintenance & Operations Superintendent
X	Moscow: Les MacDonald, Director of Public Works	X	Pullman: Barney Waldrop, City Council Member
	Latah County: Paul Kimmell County Representative	X	Whitman County: Mark Storey, Director of Public Works
	Latah County: Tom Stroschein, County Commissioner		Whitman County: Michael Largent, County Commissioner
X	Colfax: Carl Thompson, City Administrator		Colfax: Andy Rogers, Public Works Supervisor

Visitors and Others

Katie Moran, UI; Attila Felnagy, UI; Robin Nimmer, Terragraphics; Dale Ralston, Ralston Hydrologic Services; Bill Spence, Lewiston Tribune; Stephanie Dotson, WSU; Steve Robischon, PBAC

Call to Order

Michael Leonas, PBAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:03 PM

1) Approval of the May 19, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Draft May minutes were approved by consensus.

2) Presentation/Discussion – Framework Project – Robin Nimmer, Dale Ralston / All

Nimmer presented an overview of the data gap high and medium priority project recommendations, and opened discussion to the full group. Nimmer/Ralston were questioned about project rationale and scope details, and further discussion focused upon how best to approach implementing recommended projects. The group decided to incorporate project consideration discussions in the upcoming review of PBAC goals.

3) Unfinished Business –

- **Premix Well Monitoring Point**
Robischon displayed information on an attempt to install a guide tube and data logger in the Premix well. The installation contractor encountered difficulties when the pipe column broke during installation. Folnagy reported the contractor has examined the well bore with a borehole video camera and will attempt to retrieve the column and pump hardware from the well and complete the installation
- **Pumping Rate / Water level Analysis**
Moran updated the group on her progress under a consulting agreement with the City of Pullman. She has nearly finished compiling the available data and will now start with the analysis.
- **UI Administration of PBAC Funds**
Kline reported the UI Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) is transferring the PBAC funds into what is referred to as an agency budget under the control of UI Facilities. Kline indicates this will facilitate PBAC transferring funds to member entities to accomplish projects that would be difficult to do under OSP compliance requirements. The process details of the budget transfer and fund administration under the agency budget will be worked out during the coming months.

4) New Business –

- **FY 2012 PBAC Officer Elections**
After discussion of traditional protocol, Workman nominated and a motion was passed electing Tom Scallorn as PBAC Chair and Steve Potratz as Vice Chair for the fiscal year (FY12) beginning July 1.

5) PBAC Projects Progress Report –

Basinwide Aquifer Testing Project

Moran reported that due to technical disagreements it has become necessary to change her thesis committee. Gary Johnson has taken over for Jim Osiensky as major professor. She plans to finalize her thesis within the next month.

Continuation of Basinwide Aquifer Testing Project

Folnagy reported HOBOS (motor on/off loggers) have been installed on the Albion wells and Grande Ronde datalogger downloading is in progress this week. He is also developing water level contour maps and continuing to work on pre-test (water level recovery) trend corrections (models assume “flat” water levels at beginning of test).

Tritium Testing Project

Robischon displayed an email from Lauren Carey reporting she is finishing up her thesis and will be prepared to present her results at the July PBAC meeting. She also reported 14C results from the Moscow Police Department monitoring well indicate an apparent water age of 7740 years before present (BP).

SW/GW Interaction Project (Moxley – Non PBAC Project)

Robischon reported Landau associates is donating 8 dataloggers to Moxley for use (monitoring water levels in wells near the SF of the Palouse) in his project. Moxley plans to come to PBAC soon for review/approval of a letter of introduction to well owners that will include mention of PBAC's support of the project.

6) Citizens Advisory Group Report –

Leonas reported there was no CAG meeting in June, and the group is awaiting further direction from PBAC.

7) Budget Report

Robischon reported on the status of the budget.

8) Other Reports and Announcements –

Moscow Surface Water Reservoir Feasibility Study

MacDonald reported Task 4 of Phase I has been submitted and review comments will be returned to the consultant during the next couple weeks. The next activities will involve deciding whether to proceed to Phase II, and presenting the project to the Moscow City Council for consideration and public comment.

Moscow Comprehensive Water Systems Plan

MacDonald reported Moscow has received the last 1 or 2 chapters from the consultant. Review comments will go out in the next couple weeks with a complete draft planned for sometime in July. In August the plan will go before City Council. MacDonald also reported a rate study (water, sewer and sanitation) has started and is in the process of incorporating capital investment information from the comprehensive plans. In addition, work is ongoing to develop a draft Phase II stormwater permit. The current plan calls for a public version to come out in a month or two and issuance of a permit may be possible by the first of next year.

Moscow Water Conservation Plan

No report.

2011 Water Summit Planning

Robischon reported a planning meeting was held June 8. The Summit is scheduled for (9am to 2pm, with lunch) October 4. The theme for the Summit will be "The Reality of the Resource". Planners are working to firm up an agenda and secure speakers.

Snowpack

Robischon displayed data from equipment installed at the Moscow Mountain SNOTEL site. As of mid-June, precipitation at the site for the current snow year exceeds 55 inches, nearly 10 inches more than the next highest recent (2008) year. Precipitation during the March/April/May period (12.5 inches) was the highest since record keeping began in 1893.

9) Next Meeting –

The next meeting is scheduled for July 21 in Moscow.

10) Adjournment -

The meeting was adjourned at 3:57 PM.

Submitted for review, amended and approved at the July 21, 2011 PBAC meeting.

Steve Robischon, PBAC Executive Manager